

Madam/ Mister Chair & Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Sarah Heuveline and I live in Turner. I am a mother myself of two little boys. I am testifying today in opposition to LD 1619. This bill would allow a baby that could survive outside the womb to be killed. This is inhumane and extreme. What is life? When is it valuable? Life begins at conception when cells begin to rapidly divide through a process called Meiosis. At just 6 weeks a baby has a heartbeat. Birth doesn't magically make you a human being.

Doctors now consider 22 weeks the earliest gestational age when a baby is "viable" or able to survive outside the womb. My son was smiling and sucking his thumb in his ultrasound image at just 32 weeks. When I look at that ultrasound picture it is evident that he was a fully formed child with intricate details of 10 fingers and 10 toes. It is terrifying to think that with LD 1619, it would make it possible to dismember the arms and legs of a perfectly healthy baby through abortion.

Most women that consider and get an abortion are scared and for good reason. Abortion has become a bandaid to the real problem that our state has of not supporting parents well. WIC benefits should include diapers and wipes, there should be paternal paid time off, there should be maternity homes for those suffering from domestic violence just to name a few. Women that are in a tough situation should be offered another option. And there are other options to offer aid such as Safe Families, Safe Voices, The Root Cellar, Saint Mary's Nutrition Center, Care Net Pregnancy Help Center of Mid-Coast Maine, Sofia's House- Center for Wisdom's Women, and ABBA Women's Choice Pregnancy Consultations are just a few to name that Maine could offer more support. The "right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" begins with LIFE itself.

